

# *St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford*

*"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"*  
(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)



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24<sup>th</sup> November 2023



*'Let us protect with Love all that God has given us.'*

Dear Families,

Keeping our children safe is the most important thing that we do. This last two weeks we have had two national campaigns - 'Anti-bullying week' followed by 'Road Safety Week'. You may have noticed myself and Mrs Chadbourne out on the curb this week to encourage people to follow the markings when parking. We have some very colourful cones to put out next week to remind everyone to keep our pupils safe when using the roads – there is a sneak preview above. Our Spring focus will be on healthy eating as we are noticing more and more unhealthy food coming into school!

Tomorrow is our school Christmas Fair from 2pm-5pm. Please do drop in. Can I say a huge thank you to all the parent and staff volunteers. The response has been wonderful and there has been much hard work going on behind the scenes to get the PTA up and running again this year. Also thanks to all families for all the donations for the stalls - a tremendous effort by all. We will announce the winning class next week.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to Sister Marie Ann for her effort with the bookfair. She is a long standing member of our school community and she has done an amazing job and managed to raise over £1000 for the school in Scholastic books which will bolster our library. Thank you to her and all the families that bought books.

Have a lovely weekend and we hope to see you at the Christmas Fair.

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie  
**Headteacher**



### **Christmas Fair**

Please support our Christmas Fair from 2pm-5pm tomorrow (Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November). The PTA raises vital funds for our school, enabling us to enhance classroom learning and enrich the learning environments. We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful community event; the choir and handbells group will be performing to add a wonderful festive flavour to the celebrations.

A huge thank you to all our supporters, they have been so generous, the raffle prizes this year include:

- 2 x £100 amazon vouchers donated by Shimadzu Instruments
- Tickets to Cotswold wildlife park
- Tickets to Roves Farm
- Nuffield Health Pass
- Science Oxford tickets
- Pegasus Theatre tickets
- North Wall Theatre tickets
- Oxford Playhouse tickets
- Bleinham palace annual pass
- Oxford city annual pass
- Fairytale farm tickets
- Jump tickets

### Choking Guidance

The Local Authority asks us to remind parents that depending on size, parents should halve or quarter cherry tomatoes, strawberries and grapes and raw carrots and cucumber must be cut into batons and not rounds.

### School Harvest Collection

Thank you so much for your generosity again this year, please see below a message of thanks from the Community Emergency Foodbank.

Dear Head Teacher

On behalf of the Community Emergency Foodbank I would like to thank your school's pupils, families and staff for their extremely generous food donations towards The Community Emergency Food Bank during your Harvest Celebrations. We are so grateful for your continued support for our work. Every item donated will be much appreciated by those who receive it.

Again, we have had a very busy year at the foodbank as people continue to struggle to put food on the table for their families. We receive no government support for our work and rely totally on the generosity of the public. Please could you pass on these 'thanks' to all those involved in your collection?

With Very Best Wishes

Jane

**Mrs Jane Benyon**

**The Community Emergency Food Bank**

[www.cefoxford.co.uk](http://www.cefoxford.co.uk)

### Road Safety Week

The children have responded enthusiastically to Road Safety Week, with the traffic cones being decorated very creatively. We are very grateful to Chevron Traffic Management for donating the traffic cones. The company have also offered to run a 'design a sign' competition, the winning entry will be printed in their workshop onto a proper metal traffic sign! Look out for templates and instructions in bookbags as the closing date is Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

You will have noticed Ms Tweedie and Mrs Chadbourne in their high-vis jackets at drop-off and pick-up this week, thank you to the parents who have supported our efforts to keep the children safe at these busy times of day. We are also thankful to the parents who have supplied feedback using the road safety form, this is still open here if you would still like to contribute: <https://forms.office.com/e/ryb3havPPX>

The following issues have been identified:

- Vehicles parking across the cycle lane
- Vehicles parking on double yellow lines
- Cyclists cycling quickly across the pedestrian and vehicle entrances to school
- Bin lorry operating in the area at drop-off in the morning

We continue to encourage families to: use alternative forms of transport, useful from a traffic reduction and environmental point of a view or to park further away and walk the remaining distance to school.



### **Greyfriars is a 'Good' School October 23**

We are delighted for our colleagues at Greyfriars Catholic Secondary School following their recent OFSTED inspection.

### **Greyfriars is a 'Good' School - Ofsted 2023**



The community at Greyfriars Catholic School is celebrating the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place in October 2023. We were judged to be Good overall and Good in all areas: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Sixth Form. Inspectors were highly impressed with the school, which has been 'transformed'.

During their visit, inspectors met with pupils, leaders, staff, trustees and governors. They talked to pupils about their work and experiences, visited lessons, including the Elective programme, and form time. They also spoke to curriculum leaders and teachers and looked in depth at areas of the curriculum, including English, Mathematics, Science, History and PE. Inspectors noted that Greyfriars 'has an ambitious curriculum. In each subject, planning clearly sets out what pupils are expected to learn to achieve well'.

The report starts with the experiences of children in the school as they 'enjoy the calm and respectful environment that helps them to study and learn' and that the Greyfriars values of 'knowledge, care and ambition' are evident across the school'. Greyfriars' vision is that all children will flourish individually and collectively and this is achieved through the Greyfriars Way: an understanding that individual actions have an effect on the whole community, and that small things matter. The Ofsted team recognised that the 'Greyfriars Way' is well established as pupils 'know what is expected of them' in terms of behaviour and that 'relationships between pupils are kind and respectful'.

The investment in Personal Development via the school's Elective programme, a programme of enrichment opportunities built into the school day, means that Greyfriars 'helps pupils be ambitious for their futures'. The experiences of pupils in Greyfriars mean that they 'are proud of their school and enjoy the opportunities they have to contribute to the life of the school and the wider community'. We are incredibly proud of our school community for this recognition.

The report recognises the work and determination of staff stating that 'staff have been resolute in transforming the school' as the predecessor school was graded as inadequate in October 2019. 'Expectations of pupils in lessons is high.' and Greyfriars is 'ambitious in its aims for all pupils to enjoy their learning and to flourish as individuals'. Greyfriars is committed to ensuring that the safeguarding team works to safeguard children. Safeguarding is also seen as effective and inspectors praised the extent to which the school 'has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first'.

Headteacher, Lyndsey Caldwell, said 'This report is a wonderful acknowledgement of the commitment and drive of the pupils and staff at Greyfriars Catholic School. We are so proud of our pupils and the way they live out the Greyfriars Way. We know that our school is not the building but the people and this report shows how we have all worked together as a community to create an ambitious school that we can all be immensely proud of. I would like to thank our staff team who have worked tirelessly to transform the school and I am delighted that this report recognises their determination and relentless effort. Thank you too to all the families, Governors and Pope Francis MAC colleagues for their support. Together, we are a powerful Greyfriars team.'

Chair of Governors, Mick Quigley, said 'We are delighted with this Ofsted Report and welcome the recognition it gives for the great work being done by the staff and students at Greyfriars.'

Fraser Long, Catholic Senior Executive Leader of the Pope Francis MAC, also said, 'This is a wonderful Ofsted report for Greyfriars, and external verification of the incredible hard work that all who are involved with the school have done to transform Greyfriars, led by our inspirational Headteacher, Lyndsey Caldwell.'

### **Year 5 & 6 Boys 7-a-side Football Fixtures**

There have been three fixtures in this event in one week. I am exhausted and perhaps the boys are too, as they have given their all (in some muddy conditions) to remain unbeaten this season. There has been supportive teamwork, great energy and a good amount of strategic thought involved by them in these results:

0-0 vs Windmill School, 2-2 vs John Hampden School, 3-1 vs Pegasus School.

Many thanks to families for transport to away fixtures, to the Wilmanski, Hasaj and Lalvani washing machines, as well as to Mr Mothada, (currently on a Brookes placement in Year 4) who has done a terrific job refereeing our home games and doing warmups.

J Ingram

### **Winter Mini Reading Challenge 2023**

#### **Oxfordshire Libraries announce the return of the Winter Mini Challenge!**

The Reading Agency has once more teamed up with the Youth Sport Trust and public libraries, continuing with the Ready, Set, Read! theme from the Summer Reading Challenge. The Winter Mini Challenge is a free reading challenge, completely online, that tackles the holiday reading 'dip', encouraging children to keep up good habits or discover the joy of reading.

- Children will re-join the six characters from the Summer Reading Challenge, as they go on a winter walk to the library (they don't have to have done the summer challenge to join this one!)
- They will unlock virtual rewards and a special certificate by rating and reviewing books.
- A target of 3 books is recommended for children, who set their own reading Challenge. Children can read any books, including eBooks or eAudio, which can be borrowed for free from Oxfordshire Libraries.
- There will be a themed collection of eBooks to download from our [Overdrive Ebook Platform](#)
- Parents and carers can sign up their children to join the library by visiting [Oxfordshire Libraries](#)

**Challenge start date: 1 December 2023**

**Challenge end date: 19 February 2024**

Parents and carers can register their children for free at [Winter Mini Registration - www.wintermini.org.uk](#)

**This website will go live from 1 December.**

**Good luck - we look forward to hearing how the children get on!**

### **Bookfair**

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Bookfair again this year, over £1400 has been raised for the school, this will be used to purchase new books for classrooms and the school library. We are so grateful to Sister Marie Ann for running this so successfully again this year!

### **Chess Update**

#### *School chess matches*

St Joseph's have played in several chess matches over the last two weeks and we have more arranged for this term. Our Under 11 A and B teams played vs Summer Fields U11A and B teams in an away match, which St Joseph's A **won** 5-1 (over the conventional 6 boards) and St Joseph's B **won** 3-1 (as it was only played over 4 boards on this occasion). Our next in-person U11 matches will be away against The Dragon School on 1 December, but further U11 matches and U9 matches are planned for next term.

This week, a St Joseph's girls' chess team also played in the online She Plays To Win (SPTW) Team Battle 2, in which we came 9<sup>th</sup> place with a relatively small team on this occasion. Our top player was in the top 10 of the whole tournament with her individual performance. The SPTW tournaments are open to all chess-playing girls, so we would welcome additional members for the next SPTW Team Battle on Wednesday 31 January.

#### *ChessKid*

ChessKid is a great online resource for children to learn and to play chess in a safe environment. We have used it for many years at St Joseph's to support our chess activities and offer highly discounted Gold memberships via our chess coach, Dr Varney. A Basic free membership level is available directly, but the Gold membership allows access to unlimited puzzles, the lessons programme and a large library of chess teaching videos, etc, all tailored to primary school age children. A letter is being sent out to all parents about this. Please return the letter as soon as possible if you would like to take up the special offer for your child or children, as the Gold membership year runs from 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024.

**Practical Help and Signposting**

Sadly, things at the moment are difficult for many of our families. Bills all seem to be rising, and everything is getting more expensive. We want to make sure that all our families have support in place if it is needed. Even if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals, we may be able to help with uniform from our vast stock of good-quality second-hand items, we are able to refer to local Food Banks and signpost families to other sources of help, advice and support.

If you are struggling, please contact our home/school link worker, Mrs Kate Stratford. Her contact details are below. Mrs Stratford will be happy to talk to you in confidence to see what support we can offer.

If you need help towards paying for school trips, please contact the office to arrange a confidential conversation with Ms Tweedie.

Mrs Kate Stratford

Home/School Link Worker and Deputy DSL

Tel: 01865 763357      Mobile: 07500 802732

Email: [kstr3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:kstr3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

**Dairy Dates**

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2pm-5pm	All year groups	Christmas Fair
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6	Science of Christmas
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 09:15am	iRock pupils	iRock Concert
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 09:30am	EYFS	EYFS Nativity Performance
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2:30pm	EYFS	EYFS Nativity Performance
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	All year groups	Advent Service
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm	Year 1	Nativity Performance
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm	Year 2	Nativity Performance
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm	Year 1	Phonics Meeting for parents
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	All year groups	End-of-term Mass
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS	Christmas Crafternoon
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	All year groups	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm	Choir	Christmas Choir Performance
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	All year groups	Sparkle Assembly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	All year groups	School finishes at 1:30pm



# CHRISTMAS TECH CAMP

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## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2023

**What else is on?**

**Festive Filming** **Cosmic Crackers** **Ingenius Inventions** **Magical Minecraft** **Light-Up Cards**

*Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities*

### WHAT TO BRING...

**Packed Lunch and Snacks (NUT-FREE)** **Water Bottle** **Medication If Required** **Weather Appropriate Clothing**

### HOW TO BOOK

**CLICK HERE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE** **FIND YOUR LOCATION** **GET £5 OFF! USE CODE AT CHECKOUT**

**www.nextthing.education**

**CC5**

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My daughter is fully inspired and will not stop talking about the amazing time she had. The Staff were experienced, welcoming and encouraging.."  
- Happy Parent 😊

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**T: 01442873150**



## WINTER Holiday Club

**For children aged 5 (year 1 and above) - 13**

**OFSTED REGISTERED**

**Church Cowley St James Primary, Bartholomew Road, Oxford, OX4 3QH**

**Fun & Creative**

**Indoor and Outdoor Activities**

Football • Dance • Tennis • Arts and Crafts • Rounders • Basketball • Cricket • Uni-Hock • Tag Rugby • Multi Sports • Team Games • Gymnastics • Dodgeball • Badminton • Netball • Athletics • Archery • Fencing • Drama • Quad Ball • Volleyball • Table Tennis • Laser Tag & More!

**21/12/2023 - 22/12/2023**  
**28/12/2023 - 29/12/2023**  
**4/1/2024 - 5/1/2024**  
**8:40am - 4:15pm**  
**£28 per day**

**HAF** **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** **Department for Education**

**EASY ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM**

**www.clubszone.co.uk** **07305 270 565** **Katie@clubszone.co.uk**

Please email us at [vouchers@clubszone.co.uk](mailto:vouchers@clubszone.co.uk) if you would like to pay using your childcare vouchers.

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## Faringdon Christmas Market - with Christmas Trees, Decorations, Firewood, Gifts & Toys, Wreaths and lots, lots more

Free entry to our CHRISTMAS MARKET

\* Our Tree Barn is full of fresh Christmas trees - both cut and pot grown - Wreaths, Tree Stands and Firewood

\* Our Farm Shop is a festive adventure, fun to explore. Gifts, Toys & Decorations. Refreshments served all day.

A magical winter delight of Christmas shopping. Enjoy some family fun on the farm whilst you choose a tree, some new decorations or order delicious Christmas meats - beef, gammon, goose, lamb, goat and pork.

We are open EVERY DAY from Friday 17 November until Saturday 23 December

\* 9am - 5pm

Queries/Questions - 07714 455 400 or 01793 780 555

**activeCamps**  
School holiday multi-activity camps  
for children aged 4-14!

Running at Summer Fields School!

Christmas 18 - 22 December  
New Year 2 - 5 January

From £46 per day

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**Saturday 3 February 2024**

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening  
11:30am - 4pm Open to all

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BOOK TICKETS

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[sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk)

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